

PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant :	Alain GANTIER)
Appln. No. :	<u>Unassigned</u> (PCT National Phase of PCT/FR01/00199)) Group A.U. 3728) (Anticipated)) Examiner Not Known
I.A. Filed :	January 22, 2001)
For :	ARTICULATED TILTING TONGUE FOR RIGIDIFYING AND/OR PROTECTING THE FRONT OF A SHOE AND MORE PARTICULARLY A SNOWBOARD)))))

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of filing fees and prior to the first examination of the instant application, please enter the following amendment, which deletes multiple dependent claim relationships:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 14-28 as follows:

-- 14. An assembly comprising:

a shoe and a device for flexural stiffening and/or protection of the shoe;

said shoe having a flexion fold zone, an upper front surface, a front end zone,

and a sole;

said device a cover covering said upper front surface of said shoe and extending from said flexion fold zone of said shoe to said front end zone of said sole.

15. A device for flexural stiffening and/or protection of a shoe, including a device for a sports shoe adapted to be fixed onto a sports apparatus, said device comprising a cover configured and arranged to cover a front surface of the shoe and extending from a flexion fold zone of the shoe to a front end zone of a sole of the shoe.

16. A device according to claim 15, further comprising a journal connection for connecting the device to the sole of the shoe.

17. A device according to claim 16, wherein said journal connection is located with respect to said device to be connected to a front zone of the shoe.

18. A device according to claim 15, wherein the device is configured to be removably mounted to the shoe.

19. A device according to claim 15, wherein the device extends from a tibial support zone to a metatarsophalangeal articulation zone and/or the zone of the base of the toes.

20. A device according to claim 15, wherein the device further comprises an insert, affixing the device to the shoe by the sole, and a cover, affixed to the insert, which completely or partially covers the front surface of the latter by manual thrust or traction from a user.

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21. A device according to claim 20, wherein the insert and the cover form a journal, the insert constituting a fixed portion thereof, and the cover constituting a portion movable along a front-to-rear direction of movement.

22. A device according to claim 20, wherein said insert is implanted along an axis transverse to a longitudinal axis of the shoe.

23. A device according to claim 22, wherein the insert is implanted beneath or on opposite sides of said sole, in a zone demarcated at a front by a tip of a foot, at the rear by the front surface of a plantar arch, and laterally by the edges of the sole in their entire thickness.

24. A device according to claim 20, wherein the device is mounted to the shoe by an insertion method using a shaft and lateral inserts extending through all or part of the sole of the shoe.

25. A device according to claim 16, wherein the cover has a pseudo-anatomical shape corresponding to said front surface of the shoe, capable of covering the shoe completely or partially and constituted of rigid or semi-rigid materials.

26. A device according to claim 15, wherein the device is fixed to an upper and/or mid portion of the device by retaining and immobilizing means on the shoe.

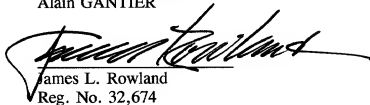
27. A device according to claim 15, comprising a plurality of said covers to be associated with the same shoe, said plurality of covers having varying rigidities.

28. A shoe comprising a stiffening device according to claim 15.

REMARKS

After entry of the amendment above, examination of the instant U.S. national phase application is requested. If there are any comments or questions concerning this preliminary amendment or this application, they can be directed to Applicant's undersigned attorney at telephone number (703) 716-1191.

Respectfully submitted,
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